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# FIGHTING TALK

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## NO PLATFORM

## AFA STYLE

The magazine of Anti-Fascist Action

# Bloody Sunday:
## *Who's kidding who?*

Over 600 fascists and their Loyalist supporters descended on London to attack the annual Bloody Sunday demonstration in January. AFA was well aware that the fascists were making a big push to attack the march, but were even more surprised at the numbers. It's a long time since the fascists mobilised these sorts of numbers, and the vast majority were street fighters.

Accepting there were some hardened anti-fascists (including AFA members) on the march, particularly around the republican flute band, the fact remains the only reason the march was able to proceed was because of the massive police operation.

Large groups of fascists were surrounded by even larger groups of police, put into vans and buses, and 'deported' to various police stations. Nearly 300 fascists were removed from the area by this method. Most of the remaining 200 or so fascists were penned in by the police, and about one to one and a half hours later than planned, the march moved off.

One of the extraordinary things about the day is that the media completely ignored it. When was the last time 300 people, let alone fascists, were arrested? The other extraordinary thing is that the march organisers claim this "was a victory for all those struggling against racism and fascism in Britain". If that was a victory we'd hate to see a defeat.

The irony of the bloody Sunday march organisers is that here is a group of people, supposedly opposed to the British State, relying on it to protect them. Supposing the British State had decided not to protect them?

AFA is a single issue anti-fascist organisation, so our formal interest in the Bloody Sunday march is restricted to any fascist opposition. With that in mind we planned to confront the fascists but the strength and size of the police operation made this impossible. A setback, but because of our discipline on the day, not a defeat. By the same token the march organisers, through the efforts of the police, were able to march so the Bloody Sunday Commemoration didn't suffer a defeat either - but it certainly wasn't a victory against fascism.

Relying on the police is naive, to put it mildly, and at least one large group of fascists, when they were released without charge a few hours later, were encouraged to travel home "through Kilburn" (where the march ended). The fascists needed little encouragement and two Irishmen were stabbed that evening. In fact, throughout the day fascist snipers picked off marchers.

A victory would have been achieved only if anti-fascists had confronted, beaten, and chased off the fascists, relying only on our own strength. That would have been 'a victory'. To confuse the issue by claiming a victory because the police decided to arrest nearly 300 fascists is misleading, and worse, it undermines the efforts of genuine anti-fascists who are trying to build a movement that really can beat the fascists regardless of what the British State and it's police force decide to do.

# Loyalism & Fascism

**"Hello, Hello, we are the Billy Boys**
**Hello, Hello, you'll know us by our noise,**
**We're up to our knees in Fenian blood**
**Surrender or you'll die**
**For we are the Bridgeton Billy Boys."**

So goes the anthem of Glasgow Rangers football fans. This is no ordinary anthem of hate towards all things Irish, catholic and republican. Despite the mistaken belief of many Rangers fans that the song commemorates the victory of Prince William of Orange ("King Billy"), the song has much more recent origins than a 300 year old battle on the banks of an Irish river. The song actually commemorates the sectarian razor gang of the 1920s and '30s called the "Billy Boys", who were led by William "Billy" Fullerton.

Aside from participating in the territorial gangland battles that have almost become an institution in Glasgow, the Billy Boys also became an important force of reaction in the West of Scotland. They were, in fact, a fascist gang in the pay of the bosses long before the organised fascist movement had got off the ground.

Fullerton and his gang were hired by employers during the 1926 General Strike to intimidate strikers and break up demonstrations and picket lines. It will come as no surprise to learn that on the founding of Mosley's British Union of Fascists, Fullerton became a section commander at the head of 200 Blackshirts in Glasgow. Fullerton also founded a local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the Bridgeton Foundry Boys Hall.

In 1932, the blackshirted Billy Boys were responsible for an attack upon the National Unemployed Workers Movement march as it entered Glasgow Green. Fierce battles broke out between the marchers and the fascists who had entered the park singing "God Save the King". The result was a resounding victory for the anti-fascists and a bloody and humiliating defeat for Fullerton's fascist mob.

Fullerton may well have been the first Loyalist who made the connection with organised fascism, but he was by no means the last. In Scotland and Ulster, fascism serves a useful puspose as a complementary political movement which can provide valuable contacts, resources and recruits.

Militant Loyalism displays many of the characteristics of fascism: patriotism, supremacism, discrimination, authoritarianism and anti-working class/anti-socialist practice. In particular areas, such as Ulster and Scotland, there can be no doubt that Loyalism is a parochial form of fascism.

## Conspiracy

The ideas of protestant supremacy and "Papish conspiracy" theories accomodate the ideas of white supremacy and "Jewish conspiracy" theories. The door is already open and the fascist groups in Britain recognise this. Unfortunately, it is the left who have a problem in recognising the obvious dangers, and ignore, deny, and in some cases defend the anti-working class ideology of Loyalism. The best example is Militant, who have stated that "whilst Rangers fans are Loyalists, they want nothing to do with fascism." This is to stare reality in the face and pretend it is not happening.

The BNP, and the NF before them, have enjoyed a steady flow of recruits from the Rangers' support. This doesn't mean that all Rangers fans are nazis, far from it. However, it does mean that fascist groups have been able to identify a certain cross-over in political ideology between Loyalism and fascism, and have been able to skillfully manipulate this common ground to their advantage.

## Football

Bulldog, the NF's youth paper, openly boasted about the hundreds of papers it used to sell outside Ibrox (Rangers' ground) and Tynecastle (Hearts' ground). During the eighties, it was this steady and unchallenged paper selling at two football grounds in Scotland which secured a permanent foothold for the fascists.

Former NF and BNP organiser in Scotland, Eric Brand, was recruited in this way. He was a former member of the ultra-Loyalist Apprentice Boys of Derry (ABOD) and a keen Rangers fan. It wasn't long before Eric was goose stepping to a different tune.

Gary Macleod, another NF and BNP member who is reputed to

have UVF connections, has also stated that his association with fascist groups started "through the football".

The path by which Dave Seawright came into contact with fascist organisations may have been slightly different. Seawright's brother was the infamous Ulster assembleyman, councillor and UVF commander, George Seawright. Glasgow-born Seawright's views on what he saw as the "catholic problem" owes much to the politics of the nazis. Seawright's assertion that public money could be better spent by building an oven "... to incinerate every last one of them", was his own version of the final solution.

He was, himself, shot dead by a maveric republican group. It would appear, however, that his younger brother David has kept the flames of Loyalist bigotry and neo-fascism burning. In 1978, he received a four year sentence for arms offences. It is believed that the weapons were intended for the UVF. In 1986, he was again tried on gun-running charges, but this time he was found "not proven". In his evidence to police, he admitted to being "the commander of the UVF in Scotland".

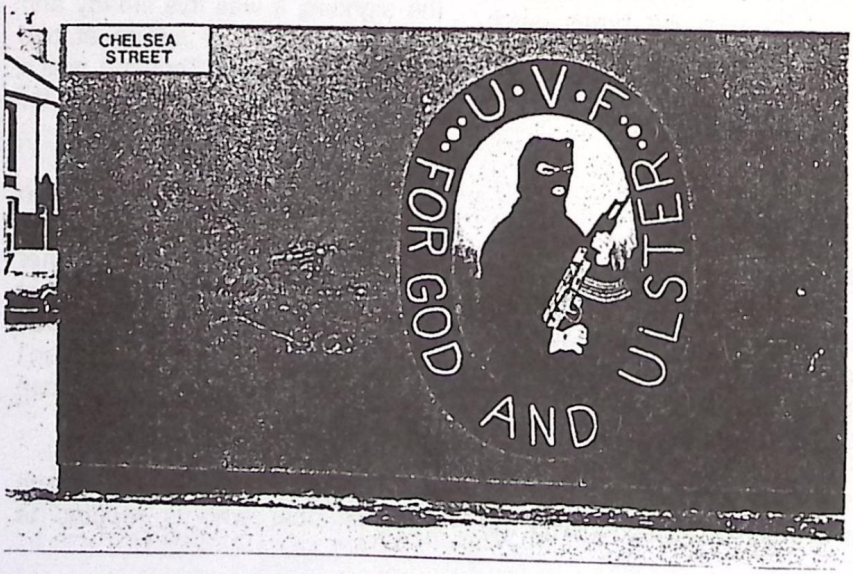
A couple of years later, he was pictured at a National Front march and was the guest speaker at the rally that followed it. He is now lecturing in politics at a Scottish university.

## International links

George and David Seawright are by no means the first prominent Loyalists to have flirted with fascism. Andy Tyrie of the UDA had personal contact with Steve Brady of the NF, who introduced him to a number of sympathetic right wing European groups who were able to provide Loyalist death squads with much-needed contacts with the international arms trade.

The Loyalists and their fascist partners were even able to convince the Belgian fascist terror group, the VMO, of the error of ther ways on Ireland and establish fruitful co-operation between the VMO and the UVF. Loyalist contacts with right wingers in France, Germany, Italy, Turkey and South Africa have been initiated by their friends in the British fascist movement.

It goes without saying, therefore, that when the NF opened its




its Belfast office, the UVF welcomed them with open arms. Combat, the UVF's magazine, expressed the hope that the NF would, "Go from strength to strength". The hope was reciprocated but, fortunately, not achieved.

Steve Bruce, the eminent apologist for Loyalism, wrote in his latest book, The Red Hand, that the links between fascist groups on the "mainland" and their Loyalist counterparts in Ulster are over-estimated. He cited the example of a local election in Portadown where the NF candidate received only 27 votes. A member of Glasgow AFA, himself a former active supporter of the UDA, gave this retort to Mr Bruce's assertions, "Why vote for the NF when you can already vote for the real thing?"

Racism is racism whether it is directed against blacks, Jews or the Irish. It has to be fought ideologically by challenging its arguments with our own. Supremacists, whether they are white supremacists or advocates of the "protestant ascendancy" must also be fought ideologically and physically. Why should it be any more acceptable to the left that those who advocate the elimination of a religious minority should enjoy freedom of speech, whereas those who advocate the elimination of a racial minority shouldn't? The only answer that I can find to this question is that the former are a much larger grouping than the latter.

The fact that Loyalists celebrate the defeat of Germany in two world wars doesn't preclude that their own home-spun ideology is influeced by fascism. The only thing that should surprise us is not that there are links between Loyalism and fascism, but that they are not more extensive and formalised. However, this situation may be changing.

## UDA

According to Searchlight magazine, the UDA is now in the hands of a

younger leadership, many of whose members hold extreme right wing views. The latest issue of the UDA magazine, The New Ulster Defender, in its George & Cross column, states that "...the UDA has no position on the British National Party." It then goes on to state its position on Searchlight, Ray Hill, AFA and the Fighting Talk TV programme, all of whom it believes to be either communists or, at the very least, pro-republican.

It is believed that the George & Cross column is written by the NF's former southwest England organiser, Mark Cotterill. It is, therefore, easy to see why the UDA should condemn those who are opposed to the BNP whilst maintainingg an undignified silence about its attitude to, an dealings with, the fascists.

In Scotland and England there is no silence on this issue. There are a number of areas, including London, Manchester, Glasgow and the West Midlands, where there exists a duality in membership of Loyalist and fascist organisations. The establishment in England of a Loyalist central co-ordinating body could herald the formalising of these links. A number of NF and BNP activists are already involved with this body which includes supporters of the UVF and UDA. Recent fascist mobilisations against Irish marches have included a sizeable proportion of Loyalists. The Irish Freedom Movement's march was followed by attacks on marchers and an attack on an Irish pub by about 50 fascists and Loyalists.

## Scotland

In Scotland it is a similar picture. Tyndall and his Scottish disciples have learned the lessons of past adventures of the NF when they failed to capitalise on the latent support for fascist ideas amongst the Loyalists.

In the early 1980s, Martin Webster of the NF addressed a crowd of around 100 people in Glasgow, of which about 70 were from the Scottish Loyalist organisation. After lecturing them about "Jewish conspiracies" and the need for repatriation, Webster was asked what the NF were prepared to do about "... the catholics?" Webster replied that British patriotism had nothing to do with religion, and indeed, some of the NF's best members were catholics. This prompted a walk-out by the Loyalists.

The BNP have not repeated this error. The BNP appear to have seized the initiative, and are actually prepared to take the lead in counter-demonstrations against republican marches. This has gained them some credibility amongst a section of Loyalist youth organised mainly in flute bands. A common feature now of Loyalist graffitti in the city is to daub the name of the local Loyalist flute band usually accompanied by "BNP" and other fascist slogans.

## Religion

Clearly, AFA must be prepared to challenge both fascism and Loyalism as two faces of the same coin. Firstly, we have to differentiate between Loyalism and protestantism. Loyalism is not a religion, it claims to be the militant wing of protestantism but it is also tied to the ideas of Orangeism and its supremacist theories. It defends the interests of the bosses and feeds off the misery and poverty of its mainly working class followers.

The majority of protestants are not Loyalists and have litle interest in Loyalism. Therefore, anti-fascists have to find ways whereby we can divide the Loyalists and fascists from the majority whom they regard as their constituency.

For example, despite the assertions of some of the Rangers fanzines that those who adhere to nazi ideas amongst their supporters are just "... a few misguided punters", the BNP have maintained the fascist influence at Ibrox with a regular paper sale. This sale has never been challenged by either the ordinary Rangers fans or the left. If the left continues to fail to make any real challenge to the BNP paper sale at Ibrox, then they are guilty of exactly the crime that they falsely accuse AFA of. AFA has been accused of branding all Rangers fans as fascists. This is a lie concocted by those who bear the real guilt for ignoring the problems of Loyalism and fascism for years.

Not one single left wing organisation (including Militant, despite its claim to "work on both sides of the sectarian divide") has been prepared to mount a paper sale or even leaflet the supporters in the last 10 years. In effect, the left have abandoned the Rangers fans because they actually believe their own propaganda, the result being that the fascists have become the accepted "norm" at Ibrox, selling alongside Loyalist magazines. For the left, Rangers and Ibrox are no-go areas.

AFA has to find ways to break this apathy. If not, we will be as guilty as the rest of the lefty groups who have abandoned a section of the working class and who appear to have no alternative to either fascism or Loyalism. Sympathetic Rangers fans have already shown their willingness to get involved in AFA and are keen to counter the fascist influence. Poster and sticker campaigns around the ground are being planned. This will hopefully mark the beginning of a long campaign by AFA to challenge the fascists and to ultimately remove them from the ground.

# Something rotten in Rochdale

Anyone who watched the Public Eye programme on BBC2 recently, which went inside a BNP meeting in Rochdale, could be forgiven for thinking that the Rochdale branch had grown by leaps and bounds over the previous year.

A closer inspection reveals that most of those in attendance were from outside Rochdale, some from as far afield as Leeds and Hertfordshire.

However, the BNP have announced that they will be standing candidates somewhere in Lancs at the local elections in May, and they recently held a public meeting in Nelson. So there is no room for complacency.

## BLAGGERS IN THE AREA

Two weeks previous to the Mansfield gig (see below), the Blaggers ITA, who are anything but coy about their anti-fascist politics, were due to play in Blackpool, home of Ian Stuart, lead singer of Skrewdriver, who had just recently moved to the area from the East Midlands. In the words of Matty Blag:- "He told us he and his friends would come over and destroy the gig and beat up the band. We put the word out through Anti-Fascist Action groups over the North West and they turned up very strong - about 50-100 people just to steward the gig and watch the pubs in the area." Stuart Bottled it. He sent out one BNP scout "who we sussed straight away" and cancelled the offensive. If Stuart believes that he will be allowed the same lee-way in the North-West, as he was in the East Midlands, then he is very badly mistaken.

# HEART(S) TROUBLE

We hear a group of 'green' football supporters in Edinburgh have acted energetically to stop the pollution of trees in their fair city.

'The Trees' in question being the pub opposite Hearts football ground and the pollution being BNP supporters who drank there.

Our intrepid ecologists realised it was not only important to ensure plenty of fresh, clean air could get in, but that once cleansed it should be as hard as possible for the pollutants to return.

We understand the brewery have decided healthy living is the best option, and have closed the pub with the intention of reopening it later as a BNP no go-zone.

# ROCKING THE RIGHT IN MANSFIELD

Over the last year, Mansfield and the East Midlands has become a key area for fascist activity, with the BNP, KKK and Blood & Honour all active in the region.

As in other parts of the country, the local SWP/ANL appear to have been the initial focus of fascist aggression, as the BNP seek to "blood" new members with easy victories over undefended activities called by these people. The SWP/ANL have been seriously attacked on at least two occasions in the town, and because of their gutless response to these attacks have had to endure a campaign of constant harrassment ever since.

Bolstered by these easy victories, the BNP have widened their campaign to include attacks on local Asian and Jewish people, and launched an anti-pit closure campaign, aimed at UDM miners. Reports of local miners wearing BNP stickers on their helmets would suggest that this campaign has been at least a partial success.

Meanwhile, the KKK have carried out several cross burning ceremonies in the area, and Blood and Honour held a major gig in the town just before Christmas.

Recently, however, members of Anti-Fascist Action (Northern Network) in conjunction with local non-aligned anti-fascists have sought to recapture some of the ground lost over the previous year.

A number of activities have been held in the town. All have been well stewarded, none have been attacked.

On Friday 12th February, a packed gig held in Mansfield Labour Club announced to the fascists that they would no longer be able to carry out ther activities unhindered.

In the week previous to the gig, the organiser had a burning cross planted in his garden, and the BNP announced that they would not allow the gig to go ahead. On the night itself, the BNP very wisely kept their distance, as more than 100 stewards waited patiently for the "inevitable" fascist offensive. The single scout who did venture too near the gig was last seen driving recklessly through two sets of red lights with his rear windscreen missing.

# WHATEVER YOU SAY - SAY NOTHING

Anti-Fascist Action has one function only and that is to provide a vehicle for a principled working class opposition to the far right, an opposition that manifests itself politically and physically. This simple statement has the effect of lining up a whole spectrum of opponents to us on all levels, from our chosen quarry on the radical right to the toy-town revolutionaries of the left and now increasingly the forces of the state. The former two it is relatively simple to sum up an appropriate response to.

One you introduce to the reality of the NHS in the 1990s, the other you just dismiss with mocking laughter. Which way round that response is supposed to be escapes me at times. However, it is the response of the state to militant anti-fascism that is addressed in this article.

The state must be considered separately for a number of reasons not least of which is the resources it has at its disposal, in terms of manpower, finance, intelligence (we are not necessarily talking about cerebral intelligence here), and its recognition that the non-sectarian basis of our class struggle will ultimately lead us into a protracted dispute with itself. All anti-fascist activists should be prepared for the inevitability of interaction with the paid agents of the state, the police.

That interaction may be the seemingly innocent inquiry about the nature of a low profile activity such as the leafletting of an estate, to the arrest of a person in the vicinity of a vigorous demonstration. We should all be under no illusions whatsoever about these interactions. They are designed to remove our liberty from us. This is a very real threat and should be treated with the utmost seriousness.

On any AFA activity, whatever it is, someone or some group of people should be assigned to deal with inquiries from persons outside the group. These inquiries could come from any number of sources - from people in the street, shopkeepers, press, or from the police and/or their agents. All inquiries should be treated the same. Far for me to suggest that the police would masquerade as members of the public or reporters to attempt to gain information, but others have suggested the possibility - so always assume that is what is happening. The response should be that you do not know what is happening, you are not aware of any leaders, you do not know who they should talk to. Plain ignorance is not a crime and you will not incriminate yourself or anyone else by exhibiting it. Hopefully, one of those appointed to liaise will step in if it seems necessary. Innocent inquiries will obviously be dealt with considerately, state inquiries will be stonewalled.

Whoever is involved should avoid speaking to the police without another AFA person being with them. This is of paramount importance for two reasons.

Firstly, it provides a witness if words or meanings are misconstrued or misinterpreted. Secondly, it reassures other AFA people that nothing untoward or damaging is being communicated. These are simple and easy guidelines that should be employed in all instances where AFA people are gathered together, whether we be having a social drink together or innocently caught up in a passing riot.

In all other circumstances the individual should avoid

to the police. Where it becomes unavoidable forget about obtaining your statutory rights, the police have already forgot about giving them to you. All the middle class nonsense about they have to do this, say that and behave in a particular way is a theory propounded and set in law by those who never come into conflict with the law because it acts in their interests. On the streets the practice will be the police will demand to know your name, where you live, where you have come from and where you are going to. Give them a name and address, and answer the other questions. Maybe you have just come from your home address and are out for a walk and are returning to that address.

Do not answer questions about the names, addresses, or intentions of others. Most anti-fascists are understandably cautious about volunteering information about themselves so it is highly likely that you only know people by sight and very little else about them. Remember, every piece of information you give the state that you are not obliged to is of use to the state, it gives them names, provides a contact network, it places people at events. It may seem insignificant now but at a future date it may be used in a prosecution, for example to prove that a certain group are often together on demonstrations. Unfortunately, you may be arrested. Undoubtedly you will be innocent. The police will assume you are guilty and will attempt to prove that you are. If they do not have that proof, they may fabricate it. Any proof or information they already have, you can do nothing about. Do not attempt to explain it away either on the street, on the way to the police station or at the police station. You cannot make it disappear, you can only add to it.

# Interrogation

At the station the police will interrogate you. They call it interviewing. Insist that a solicitor is present, it is your right. The police are highly trained in interviewing people. Every question has a purpose. They will see through inconsistencies. If you lie once they will constantly refer back to that lie. You will not be able to outwit the intensive training and the years of experience that they have. This is particularly so because you will naturally be feeling under pressure and your story-telling abilities may not be razor sharp. Whatever you say, say nothing. The only reason police interview suspects is to gain enough evidence or get a confession in order to get a conviction in court. The majority of convictions arise because the police are given information by people under interrogation. This is why they are constantly demanding a change in the law to remove the right to silence. A statistic often bandied around is that 68 per cent of criminal convictions arise from a confession to the police - do not help them to convict you. You only need give your name and address when under interrogation at the police station. To get bail you should also give your date of birth. The address will be checked to ensure you live or are staying there.

After you have given this tricky information the rest of the interview will be simple. The answer to every other question is "no comment". No matter how inoccuous the question the answer is "no comment". Always.

The police may use any number of tactics to gain your confidence. Camaraderie, sympathy for your predicament, empathy for your cause, they may attempt to identify with your football team etc if they can find out what it is. Do not enter into conversation with them. If you do give them clues to your speech patterns, you may inadvertently give them information, you will find it more difficult to return to the tactic of responding "no comment" when the conversation returns to the matter in hand.

# Intimidation

Being arrested is very intimidating. The whole process is designed to strip you of individuality to soften you up for interrogation and onto the

*Whatever you say, say nothing*

the penalty not a middle class prosecutor not a middle class defence solicitor, not the police, not the judge in the court. All these people potentially interact in pubs, restaurants, clubs, lodges. They share class interests which exclude us. It is not in their interests to be involved in conflict with each other. They may well have very cosy supportive relationships which they will be loathe to endanger for a working class anti-fascist activist - you must be in control.

# Conversations

Do not engage in political conversations with the police. If you do you provide them with information about your political affiliations and those of your comrades. They may be able to determine whether you are a "political animal" or a "brutal thug".

You have nothing to gain from such a conversation. You will not win the debate, and even if you did we will not recruit police officers into AFA. So you will have wasted your time, your time is more profitably spent in your cell asleep on your bunk.

# Police procedures

Do not volunteer for any police procedures (eg fingerprinting, photos, identity parades, forensic examinations). When charged the police will fingerprint and photograph you. If you resist fingerprinting they will use force, you can continuously smudge the imprint but they will become steadily more insistent and eventually it will become too painful to resist.

Photographs can be similarly painful. Avoid unnecessary ain. Do not wear glasses if you normally do so, attempt to rearrange your hair. If you are a happy person, frown. If you are a miserable old git, attempt to smile - this may need practice at home first. Do anything to try to make the photo different from you. Once taken it is always there to be used to identify you in the future. It seems incredibly unlikely that they really destroy such items when you are released without charge or found not guilty.

Identity parades should be avoided at all costs. You are totally divorced from any control at all. The witness may have been tipped off about your presence, you may be the only one with the salient feature. You cannot, normally, be forced onto a parade. A possible tactic if you are is to immediately invalidate it, possibly by asking if it is too late to change position as the witness is brought in.

Do not volunteer you clothing, skin, hair, etc for forensic examination. Blood is notoriously difficult to clean from skin and clothes. If it could have been there, assume it still is.

If you are confronted with forensic "evidence" do not succumb to shock and confess all. It may not be conclusive, it may not even be true. After all, you are completely innocent.

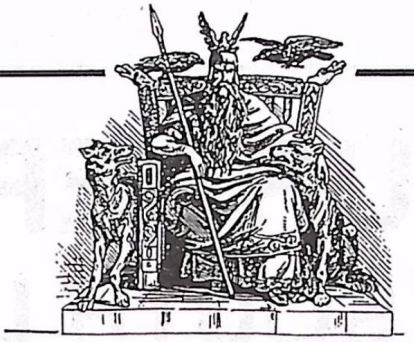
# Property

When you are brought into the police station for questioning your property will be taken from you and held until your release. You will be asked to sign for it to remove the possibility of theft or loss by the police. Be very careful when signing for property. It is not unknown for additional items such as bloodstained coshes to be included in this list. Insist that they be listed and stored separately and do not sign for them. If they refuse to remove the disputed item do not sign for anything - it is better to lose the Cartier watch than to admit to being in possession of a broken beer glass and three ounces of fascist face.

# Release

Eventually you will be released on bail or without charge. Bail may be of two types. You may be bailed to appear in court to answer specific charges or you may be released on police bail while they investigate the matter further. Regardless of any outcome you should contact AFA immediately upon release. For our demonstrations we will be co-ordinating the collection of witness statements, press comment, photographs, etc. We need to debrief you to assist you with you defence if you are charged. Regardless of that, it is desirable to maintain information about police behaviour and lines of questioning in connection with anti-fascist activities.

# A VIEW FROM VALHALLA



It is interesting to see how the fascists interpret certain events, and in this article we look at what Blood and Honour, and some of the other fascist fanzines, have to say. Blood and Honour is by far the most influential of the magazines, and on the cover of the current issue (14) they declare "Victory in London."

They seem to think that 300 people, protected by a heavy police presence, at a gig in a back room of a South London pub is a victory, after they boasted of a concert that would be attended by 2000. They start ranting on about being "met by a rabble of filthy anarchists and drugged up communists" and go on to claim "if Waterloo was a battlefield then our three-sevens banner would be waving in the winds of victory." Blood and Honour are now even producing a T-shirt with the slogan "Sept 92, Victory in London." People who attended Waterloo know the real truth of what happened that day.

The Raven is a magazine which is produced by members of Skullhead, which promotes the band and also Odinism. In the latest issue (3) their interpretation of Waterloo is that they spent the day getting harassed by the "Zionist puppet police force," but as they approached Waterloo over the bridge "with flags flying high and voices raised, for the next two hours we fought and ran as we were attacked from all sides with bricks and bottles, by an array of scum that had crawled out from the sewers." After admitting they were defeated they went on to say that if they had won the "morgues of London would have been doing a brisk trade." They claimed it was a moral victory because you did not read "nazis killed at Waterloo" the following day.

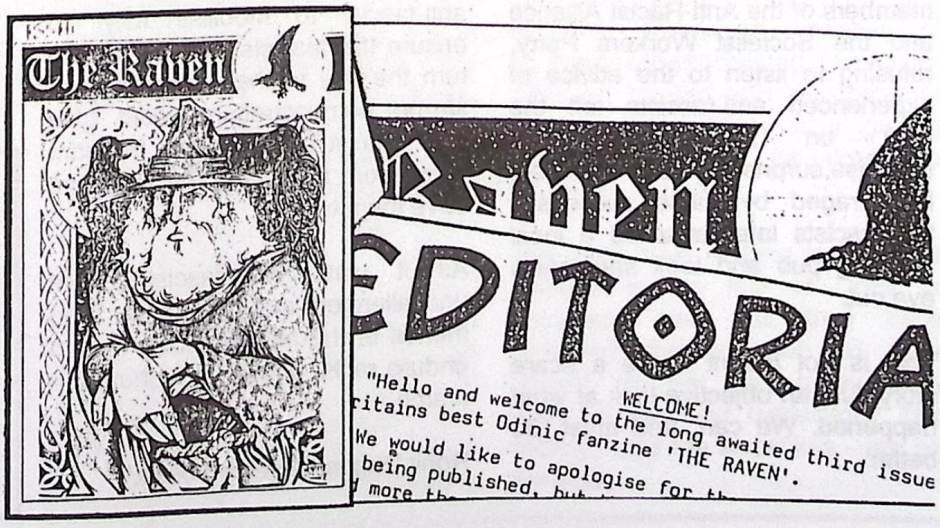
'Out', the Channel 4 Gay issues programme, recently screened a piece on gay skins. It included an interview with Nicky Crane, previously one of the most violent right wing skinheads, who admitted being gay and denounced his racist past. Most people will find the quotes used offensive but i justify their use because people should see some of the things that get written in these magazines, and to show why they are so dangerous.

Crane used to be one of the top men in Blood and Honour, but that doesn't prevent them turning on him now. "At one time in his life Crane was a highly respected skinhead, physically fit and strong minded. The fact that ten years on he has physically diminished and spends most of his time comforting "friends" is a lesson in itself to those who cannot live up to our high National Socialist standards."

"British Oi" is a magazine based in Derby, and their address is also the contact point for Skrewdriver Services Northern Division and East Midlands Blood and Honour. In issue 25 the editorial announces that issue 26 will be the last one, thankfully. When you read their remarks on the Out programme, "Protect our people from Aids, we have no need for abnormal, immoral, diseased scum. Outlaw homosexuality now." you will agree that the sooner we see the back of this lot the better.

But the biggest 'knife in the back' job to their former hero comes from the real 'weirdos' who produce The Raven. "As far as I'm concerned the quicker Nicky Crane and his bum chums get a fatal dose of Aids the quicker the world becomes a better place to be (without them!). No matter what his past glories are, I'm sorry Nicky, they don't allow arse-bandits into Valhalla, so you'll have to rot in hell."

More of this riveting stuff in the next issue!



# MURDER IN SOUTH LONDON: & still no unity

Rohit Duggal was murdered by racists in Eltham last July, the fourth racist murder in London that year. And yet, only six to seven hundred people bothered to support the demonstration called by his family.

If we are seriously going to challenge the rise of fascism (and the associated racial violence) , when we take to the streets, we must be seen to be strong. We have to make an impact on people, to convince potential anti-fascists that there is a movement worth joining and to show potential fascists they will meet stiff resistance.

On the day this didn't happen. Large numbers of fascists came into the area and carried a sizeable number of locals with them. The police prevented the fascists from attacking the rally at the end of the march and a number of people, members of the Anti-Racist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party, refusing to listen to the advice of experienced anti-fascists left the park on their own, and (surprise,surprise) got attacked. Encouraged by these successes the fascists later attacked a local left-wing pub and took someone's eye out.

This is not meant to be a scare story, just an objective look at what happened. We can, and must, do better.

Certainly the organisers of the march tried to include the various different groups, but it is clear that some organisations are unwilling to mobilise people unless they have complete control of the event. This sectarianism plays into the hands of the fascists. Tactically they are on the offensive, holding few public events of their own but looking to attack the 'opposition' at every chance (eg: the recent annual Bloody Sunday March).

The new people the fascists are attracting, particularly football gangs, are promised soft targets, and too many on the left are happy to oblige. This means the next time there will be more fascists, more confident.

We believe that when there is an obvious reason to demon- strate, such as a racist murder, there should be agreement between all the organisations that claim to be anti-fascist to mobilise fully, to ensure the fascists are not able to turn the day to their advantage. A strong demonstration would give anti- fascist stewards the freedom to confront fascists in the area and drive them out.

As it was, the fascists went unchallenged and the family and friends of the murder victim had to endure racist abuse throughout the march.

Rohit Duggal deserved better.

## ST. ANDREW'S DAY MASSACRE

The recent march and rally in Glasgow against racism once again interrupted by sieg-heiling fascists singing Rule Britannia. Their small numbers included the usual morons from the BNP and surprisingly, a group waving a National Front banner (we thought they'd died years ago!).

Anti-fascist Action members from Glasgow and Edinburgh mobilised to confront the nazis at their usual rallying point. Several fascists were eating the pavement before the day was over. We understand that their snarling Cumbernauld organiser was reduced to a blubbering wreck.

On the two occasions where the fascists approached the demo (at Buchanan St. and John St.) anti-fascists were not prepared to stand by whilst they chanted their hate-filled slogans. As a result, seven anti-fascists were arrested. Two of these are members of AFA. The charges against the AFA members are more serious and one of them could face a heavy fine or even a custodial sentence. All of those arrested deserve our support. AFA will be holding benefits and fund raisers to defend them.

## GLASGOW APPEAL

**If you would like to make a donation to the AFA defence campaign, please make cheques payable to Anti-Fascist Action and send to: AFA, PO Box 797, Glasgow G1 5JF.**

# A "perfick" day in Kent...

After Blood and Honour's disaster at Waterloo, one of their organisers defiantly announced in the Guardian that a concert was to be held in Folkestone and that "We will carry on regardless" of any opposition from "the Jews, the left-wing and the Government (sic)". The date for this proposed "music" event was the 3rd of October '92. Kent Anti-Fascist Action Committee immediately swung into action to organise a counter-demonstration.

The "secret" venue Blood and Honour had booked was contacted and the owner cancelled the gig when he was told it was for a nazi rally. The demonstration went ahead to see of any fascists that did turn up and as a show of strength from the anti-fascist movement.

Through the help of local unions and other groups, thousands of leaflets were handed out in and around Folkestone. People from all walks of life rallied in support of the demo and to keep the nazis out of Kent. Taxi drivers, trade unionists,, students and shopkeepers were all involved in the stewards' planning meetings and in the physical preparations for the demo.

Come the day, KAFAC and AFA stewards monitored the station from 12 noon. John Goodchild, Blood and Honour's Folkestone organiser, was at the station to direct any of the fascists to a "safe-house" nearby. A few anti-fascists went to the station to let him know that he had just won the most unpopular man in Folkestone award, and was to receive a prize, when he did a runner to the police. Consequently the boys in blue wouldn't let us give him the award.

As a result of our serious work in advance, the turnout was excellent, with upwards of 600 people at the height of the demo. A few nazis from Luxemburg and a big skin from Sweden turned up to "go drinking in Folkestone". A short, but frank and to the point, "discussion" took place between them and a few demonstrators resulting in four arrests, one fascist and three anti-fascists. The other fascists were holed up in a run-down flat complete with police protection.

The demo turned into a march to the police station to protest against the arrests. After about an hour of chanting, arguing etc, the three anti-fascists were eventually released. The whole day was a major blow to the fascists, and in particular Blood and (dis)Honour, but we must not rest on our laurels. All anti-fascist work must be maintained to the high standards of the past and continue to defeat the nazi threat.

**BNP ELECTION SUCCESS:**

# TIME FOR ACTION

The British National Party achieved a major breathrough in the recent council by-election in the Isle of Dogs in East London. Anti-fascists were shocked, and nazis were delighted, at the more than 600 votes polled by the BNP candidate.

This figure, which represents some 20 per cent of the vote, is the best showing for a fascist candidate since the heyday of the National Front. The fascists have built a base in the area by exploiting the real hardships faced by white workers in the area, especially the question of housing.

The racist Liberal council in Tower Hamlets has long pursued a policy of attacking the working class and encouraging racial divisions. Nor is the record of the local Labour Party much better. Faced with a choice between an anti-working class Labour Party and anti-working class Liberals, it is hardly surprising that large sections are looking for a radical alternative.

It goes without saying that this alternative should be a left alternative. But the days of Poplarism, when Labour and Communist councillors were prepared to go to jail for defending working class interests, are long gone. The Communist Party has gone, the Labour left has collapsed, and the fifty-seven varieties of toy-town self-proclaimed revolutionaries are treated with the contempt they deserve. There is a gaping vacuum, and the far right are moving in to fill it.

The BNP have nothing to offer the workers in the Isle of Dogs or anywhere else, but they have exploited the situation to their benefit. 20 per cent today. How many at the next byelection? The writing - and the swastikas - are on the wall.

# It's only rock'n'roll?

I remember just a few years ago I played "Love Rears Up Its Ugly Head" by Living Color at a rock club I was working at. Almost immediately some intellectually challenged person came up to me and asked why I was playing "nigger music"? Anyway, after a while he got up off the floor and sheepishly departed.

I wonder if this fool had heard of Chuck Berry (original founder of the riff), Jimi Hendrix (you can't really explain fully the power of this man's influence on the majority of 80s and 90s rock bands), Mothers Finest (vastly underrated yet still packing them in after nearly 20 years), through to bands of today like Fishbone, 2 Tribes, Dan Reed Network, and of course Lenny Kravitz, who have succeeded in breaking down stereotypical phrases like black people can't play rock.

At the moment the rock/rock club scene can only get better and in general is opening up tremendously. Gone are (just about, anyway) the days of the "Iron Cross, Brit rock, look at my cock" mob, being replaced by a more sussed and appreciative crowd. Even bands such as Extreme (Get The Funk Out), Bon Jovi (Keep The Faith), Izzy Stradlin - ex-Guns & Roses (Pressure Drop) are using black influences in their music while still playing to predominantly white middle class crowds. However, these bands are not really representative of what's going on at street level, ie bands with something to say. Bands such as Faith No More, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Soundgarden, and even Nirvana not the Best International Newcomers of 92 as seen on the Shits, sorry I mean the Brits, but a band that's been slogging around since 87.

Amongst the new bunch of "funk metal" (not a term I choose to use but I suppose it's an adequate description) exponents are groups currently making waves, such as Rage Against The Machine (destroyed The Word recently - check debut single "Killing In The Name Of ..."), Skatenigs, Heads Up, Scat Opera, A Little Black (probably the best unsigned band in the UK - hard, funky, and radical - check em out), Terrorvision, The Cherrys, Infectious Grooves, Limbomaniacs, and the infamous Body Count featuring Ice "Motherfucking" T (I don't think we need put bitch on the end).

Alongside these bands are more straightforward hardcore/thrash bands such as Brooklyn's Bio-Hazard, who came over a couple of months ago and aggravated a few boneheads (which hardcore sadly seems to attract) by denouncing fascism and racism on stage. Corrosion Of Conformity, another American band, also make positive steps against racism and fascism, not only writing songs (check the album Blind) but openly supporting organisations such as Klanwatch (credits on the aforementioned album). Germany, obviously, has its fair share of anti-fascist bands, however Kreator and Jingo de Lunch stand out. Kreator use backdrops of Hitler with red crosses, as in no entry signs, as well as going on to environmental issues and gay rights.

To sum up, all this great music is bringing together people of all races, sexes and religions who might otherwise have been intimidated in the past. From a fashion point of view you can't tell a rocker from a hip hopper these days. The vibe on the rock scene at the moment is akin to the summer of love 88 dance scene, only with less drugs, and by the look of it can only get better. Finally good luck to all the bands who've got something to say.

All the best,
"The DJ From Hell"

## MADNESS AND MAYHEM IN EDINBURGH

The Madness gig in Edinburgh in January attracted a number of right-wing football gangs from Rangers, Hearts, Motherwell and Airdrie, supported by some axe wielding boneheads, presumably lumberjacks? Their intention was to attack another group of football supporters who are increasingly identifying with the anti-fascist cause. We are pleased to report the fash got bashed.

**REVIEW:**

## "United Colours of Blaggers I.T.A."

I first saw the Blaggers at the George Robey, supporting the Upstarts. I can't say that I was over impressed, but I suppose you have to start somewhere. Musically, the band now are an altogether different outfit. After seemingly multifarious line up changes (one time I saw them, they only just all fitted on stage), they now carry off a tight and hard-hitting set. The principal players in the band never changed, but additions have enhanced their musical range, and obviously the technical side has improved with age. What started out as basically Oi with decent politics has developed into something that , while it still gets up and gives you a slap, now has the sounds that make you want to listen.

As always with bands the advice has to be that if you want to hear the Blaggers at their best, go and see them live. Albums never catch the energy of performances although this one certainly achieves a lot in that direction.

It's basically a reflection of the stuff they're playing in their current live set. Plenty of fast, unpretentious, no-nonsense tunes to have a good old knees up to, diversified with some slower and more considered numbers like the reggae sound on 'That's where It Ends', dedicated to Rolan Adams. The only disappointment this reviewer had on hearing the album was that the usual double-bubble vocals in the 'fuck yer shit' part of 'Here's Johnny' seemed to have been changed to one fella shouting it down a drain hole. Still what's an old cynical AFA militant got doing telling tomorrow's teenage heart-throbs what to do.

Besides that very minor point this is an album well worth buying. It's certainly encouraging to see a band these days that has the courage of it's convictions and also the ability to entertain, rather than bore. It also makes a change from the new-hippies going on about the sun shining out of their arseholes.

The boys done good - Burn Hollywood Burn.

Book review:

# "The 43 Group: The Untold Story of Their Fight Against Fascism"

**by Morris Beckman. Foreword by Vidal Sassoon. Published by Centerprise Publications Price £7.50**

The exploits of the pre-war anti-fascist movement have received a lot of publicity over the years, and rightly so. The International Brigade, the set-to at Earls Court, and of course the Battle of Cable Street are proud chapters in the history of the working class of this country.

Far less is known, in contrast, about the fight against the attempts by the pre-war fascists to re-establish their movement in the aftermath of the Second World War. Morris Beckman's excellent book sheds light on this important period, recreating the atmosphere and events of the period in vivid detail.

As Beckman relates, the fascists in Britain has maintained their contacts and networks, despite internment and bannings, and took advantage of their release at the end of the war to reestablish themselves as a serious force. Though open fascism was largely discredited, the Mosleyites were able to manipulate events in Palestine and elsewhere to their benefit, putting forward their traditional anti-semitism and rabid nationalism in a modern guise.

With as many as 20 fascist public meetings a week taking place in London alone, many young Jewish ex-servicemen began to look for ways of fighting back. The most militant among them came together to form the 43 Group, dedicated to physically opposing and disrupting the fascists wherever they showed their face. Morris Beckman is no "impartial" historian; he was a founder member of the 43 Group, and every page of the lively book reflects the passion of his anti-fascism.

The 43 Group had a simple philosophy: they sought to violently disrupt the fascists by any means necessary. They saw that the fascists were hiding behind the veil of legality, and so the 43 Group did not hesitate to break the law whenever they needed to. They used the skills they had learned in the forces to inflict the greatest damage in the shortest space of time.

By its very nature, the 43 Group had to operate clandestinely. Records were not kept, meetings were in secret, activities were planned and executed under conditions of total security. As Beckman notes, this made the job of the historian rather more difficult. It also made the job of the fascists close to impossible.

There is a wealth of detail in this book, and a store of practical lessons for anti-fascists today. Their efficiency and effectiveness was quite remarkable. They approached the question of how to defeat the fascists in the most practical manner possible: they decided what had to be done, and then did it. Not for them the stupid arguments about "squadism" that the left in the 1990s keep repeating. They knew that without squads, the fascists could not be stopped. There was no idle posturing with the 43 Group.

There are strong similarities between this approach and our own, and AFA was proud to have Morris Beckman speak on our platform during last year's East End Yesterdays Festival in Bethnal Green. However, it would be wrong to ignore the very real differences between the 43 Group and AFA. The 43 Group did not have a working class perspective, even though so many of their members were working class Jews. Indeed, the absence of such a perspective is the major political weakness of this book.

Nonetheless, this book demands to be read. It shows what can be achieved and it shows what needs to be done. Buy it.

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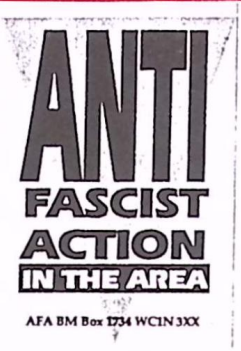

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